(b) whether it is expected to further dwindle to 38 million tonne in the next two months;

(c) whether this would be the lowest in the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the procurement made, so far;

(f) to what extent it is short of target; and

(g) the efforts being made to improve the food stocks during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The procurement of foodgrains during 2002-2003 (upto 28.2.03) is as under :-

Commodity	Quantity
Wheat (Rabi)	190.29 lakh tonnes
Rice (Kharif) (including paddy in terms of rice)	131.36 lakh tonnes

(f) and (g) The present stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are in excess of the buffer norms.

Demands of Indian Sugar Mills Association

*240. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association has demanded tax concessions and a two-year tax holiday in order to help the Sugar Mills

pay Rs. 5 per quintal increase in the price of sugarcane announced by the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has represented (to the Finance Minister) through pre-Budget Memorandum that basic excise duty on sugar currently charged at the rate of Rs. 34/- per quintal may be exempted for a period of one year. No change has been effected in the duty rates.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reliability of CBI

†1542. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent working of the CBI is reliable and what has been the source from which information is leaked before any action is initiated by the CBI and what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps Government intend to take in order to keep the reliability of the CBI intact, besides streamlining its functioning and keeping its confidential aspect intact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) From the high success rate in consistently securing convictions in more than 68% cases forwarded for trial to various Courts, the over 85% punishment rate in Disciplinary cases, the fast pace of disposal with more than 1100 investigations completed within a year, during the last 2 years and the large number of cases entrusted for investigation on orders of various Courts and requests

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.